REMARKS

The Applicants carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on August 15, 2003, and make the foregoing amendments and following remarks in response thereto. Claims 1–14 are canceled without prejudice to the underlying subject matter and claims 15–35 are added. Support for new claims 15–35 may be found, generally, within FIGS. 3, 4, 5 and 7, and Pages 9–18 of the Specification.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6–8, 10 and 13–14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,560,634 to Broadhurst ("Broadhurst"). Claims 2, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broadhurst in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,254 to Linden et al ("Linden"). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broadhurst in view of Linden and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,592 to Montulli ("Montulli"). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broadhurst in view of Montulli.

Because Applicants canceled claims 1–14, these rejections are rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 15–35 are allowable over the cited art, and respectfully request that the Examiner issue a notice to that effect.

Claims 15–35 Are Allowable Over the Cited References

Claim 15 is directed to a method for booking domain names, and recites, in pertinent part, "presenting an option to book the domain name to the customer, the option to book the domain name including <u>an option to reserve the domain name</u> and an option to register the domain name," "receiving a <u>domain name reservation request</u> from the customer," "presenting a <u>domain name reservation form</u> to the customer," "receiving a <u>completed domain name reservation form</u> from the customer" and "<u>reserving the domain name</u>" (emphasis added). Claim 26 is directed to a system for booking domain names over a network and recites similar subject matter. The Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references disclose these features, either alone or in combination.

Broadhurst is directed to determining domain name availability, and discloses a method for searching multiple domains based on a search criterion. Registration may be offered for a candidate domain name that does not exist within any of these domains. Broadhurst is entirely

silent on whether a domain name can be **reserved** rather than registered. Moreover, none of the other references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest **domain name reservation**.

More particularly, Broadhurst discloses that a user may submit a candidate domain name, a plurality of domains and a type of search to be performed to a query server. The type of search may include a set of domains based on a search criterion, such as, for example, "top 50 GDP countries," "Asian countries," etc. The query server spawns a number of search processes based on the number of domains to be searched, and each search process queries at least one domain name server to determine whether a domain name record exists for the candidate domain name. If the candidate domain name does not exist, then a registration order form may be displayed to the user. *See*, e.g., Abstract, Col. 5 line 14 to Col. 6, line 43; Col. 7 line 36 to Col. 8 line 15 (i.e., Claims 1–7). Broadhurst is entirely silent on whether a domain name may be reserved rather than registered, i.e., e.g., purchased by a customer from a registrar but not registered with the registry. In this manner, the domain name may be reserved by a customer for some period of time in advance of actual registration, and the registrar may establish different pricing options to differentiate reserved domain names from registered domain names. *Compare*, e.g., registration cost summary (Specification at page 16, line 17) with reservation cost summary (Specification at page 18, line 10). Moreover, none of the remaining references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest domain name reservation.

Consequently, claims 15 and 26 are allowable over the cited art. Claims 16–25, depending from claim 15, and claims 27–35, depending from claim 26, are also allowable, at least for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a notice to that effect.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks submitted above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present case is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect would be greatly appreciated.
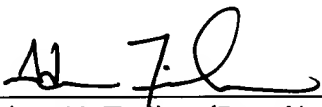
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4294 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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